



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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OCPAS/CFB

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National Intelligence Daily

***Tuesday
1 June 1982***

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CPAS NID 82-127JX

1 June 1982

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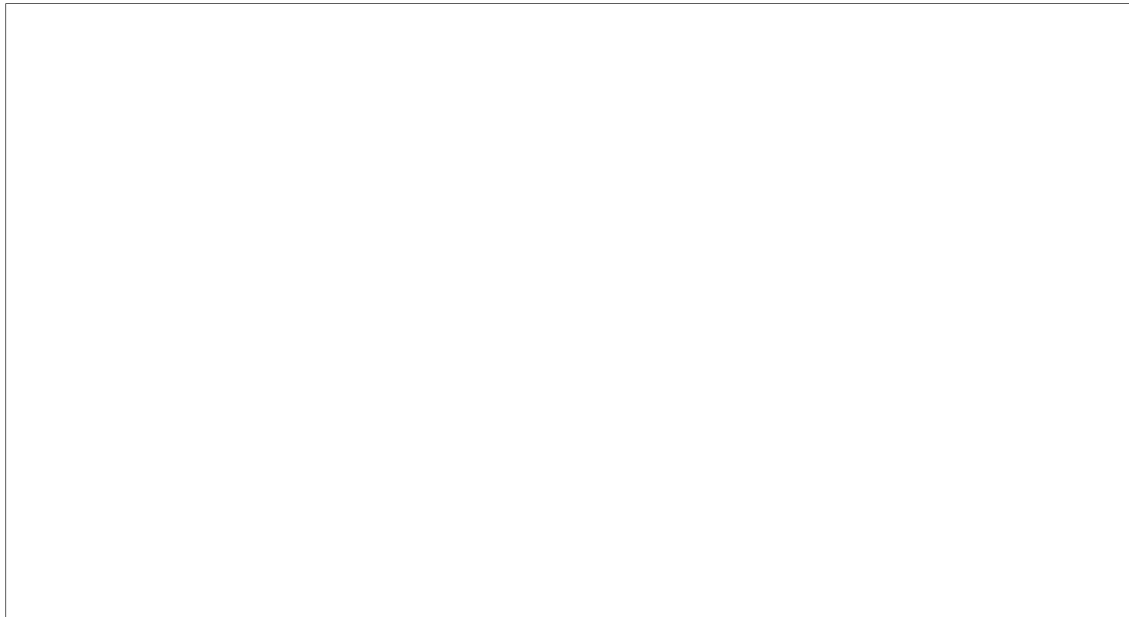
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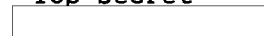
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2 Chad: *Goukouni on the Ropes* 1

25X1



Top Secret



1 June 1982

25X1

25X1

Page Denied

Next 6 Page(s) In Document Denied

Top Secret

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CHAD: Goukouni on the Ropes

Chad's President now faces almost certain defeat by rebel leader Habre,

Habre has massed a heavily armed, mechanized insurgent force of several thousand men at Ati, a few days' travel from N'Djamena. Advance units are poised about 100 kilometers north of the capital. Organized government resistance has virtually collapsed, and only a few hundred armed loyalists remain in and around the city with Goukouni.

1/2
OAU officials are trying to persuade Habre to stand fast until 10 June, the deadline for Goukouni to comply with an OAU call for negotiations. Under the latest OAU plan, peacekeeping troops north of N'Djamena would withdraw to the capital and make no attempt to stop a rebel takeover if Goukouni failed to strike a deal with Habre. The President, however, still refuses to talk

Comment: It probably is too late to prevent a violent settling of scores between Habre and Goukouni. The rebel leader's forces greatly outnumber the President's remaining fighters, and the takeover--when it comes--is likely to be quick.

US and French diplomatic personnel in N'Djamena probably face little danger from the rebels themselves, who are generally well disciplined and presumably are under orders to steer clear of foreign embassies. As the siege mentality in the capital mounts, however, some of Goukouni's followers--long convinced that Washington and Paris have been working behind the scenes to bring Habre to power--might lash out against Western diplomats. French Embassy officials are likely to cross into Cameroon if a rebel attack seems imminent.

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1 June 1982

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Next 10 Page(s) In Document Denied

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